



SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EXHIBIT NO. 8

DATE 1.12.09

City Council SB 9

Office

435 Ryman

Missoula, MT 59802

Phone: 406-552-6080

Fax: 406-327-2137

E-mail: council@ci.missoula.mt.us

Web: www.ci.missoula.mt.us/citycouncil/

January 12, 2009

Dear Local Government Committee Members:

I urge you to support SB 9, which would authorize municipalities to fund various transportation systems with the use of revenue bonds. As an elected official with the City of Missoula, I am painfully aware of the difficulty of both maintaining and enhancing our city's transportation needs, not to mention working with other adjoining communities to create integrated transportation systems. It is absolutely essential that we have as many options as possible to fund such projects, and not only for traditional road/street projects.

Over the past several years, I've been working with others to explore the possibility of reestablishing passenger rail service throughout southern Montana. Among other things, Senator Erickson's bill expands the use of revenue bonds to include passenger rail lines and related infrastructure. I see this as a part—albeit an important part—of a multifaceted effort that will include partnerships between the federal, state, and local governments. I believe that SB 9 is a proactive step in the right direction.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Strohmaier
Missoula City Council
Ward 1